

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 08851 011725Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
SY-05 MCT-02 HA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08  
ACDA-12 AID-05 USSS-00 /104 W  
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R 011722Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5572  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 08851

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS :MIL, PINS, SP  
SUBJ :STATEMENT BY JUNTA OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ON  
TERRORIST ACTS

REF MADRID 8388

1. THE MADRID PRESS ON SUNDAY, JULY 30 CARRIED THE TEXT  
OF A TERSE, ONE SENTENCE PUBLIC STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE  
JUNTA OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. REFERRING TO THE  
"RECENT TRAGIC EVENTS IN OUR COUNTRY," THE STATEMENT READS  
"NO TERRORISTS' ACTS WILL DIVERT THE ARMED FORCES FROM THE  
PURSUIT OF ITS DUTY IN THE SERVICE OF SPAIN UNDER THE  
SUPREME COMMAND OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND UNDER THE  
AUTHORITY AND DIRECTION OF THE GOVERNMENT." THIS REAFFIR-  
MATION OF LOYALTY OBVIOUSLY COMES IN RESPONSE TO THE JULY  
21 ASSASSINATIONS (REFTEL), MAY HAVE BEEN FORMULATED AT  
THE MILITARY'S INITIATIVE, AND WE THINK REPRESENTS THE  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 08851 011725Z

SINCERE VIEWS OF ITS SIGNERS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ARMED  
FORCES CHIEFS MAY HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE KING, AND  
PERHAPS THE GOVERNMENT, TO ISSUE SUCH A STATEMENT.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE SPANISH PUBLIC GENERALLY, THIS  
STATEMENT APPEARS DIRECTED AT THREE SPECIFIC AUDIENCES :  
FIRST, THE TERRORISTS, WHO ARE PUT ON NOTICE THAT THE

MILITARY WILL NOT BE PROVOKED INTO UNILATERAL ACTS EITHER AGAINST THE TERRORISTS THEMSELVES OR AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. SECOND, TO THOSE ON THE EXTREME RIGHT WHO HARBOR HOPES FOR SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION ON THE PART OF THE MILITARY. THIRD, TO ANY WITHIN THE MILITARY ITSELF WHO MIGHT ADVOCATE SUCH ACTION. THIS TYPE OF PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE MILITARY CHIEFS IS UNUSUAL, AND CLEARLY IMPORTANT, BUT NOT UNPRECEDENTED. THE QUESTION REMAINS WHY IT CAME SO LONG (8 DAYS) AFTER THE EVENTS THAT OBVIOUSLY PRECIPITATED IT. THE DELAY MAY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE, IN ORDER TO ALLOW TENSIONS TO CALM NORMALLY AND TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF OVERREACTION OR NERVOUSNESS ON THE PART OF THE ARMED FORCES LEADERSHIP. BUT THE TIMING OF THE STATEMENT MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN IN RESPONSE TO CONTINUING REAL OR RUMORED TENSIONS IN SOME MILITARY QUARTERS, AND TO STRIDENCY ON THE RIGHT (EL ALCAZAR) IN ORDER TO SCOTCH ANY LINGERING UNCERTAINTY AND SLAM THE DOOR ON SPECULATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, TWO SENIOR, WELL-PLACED MILITARY OFFICERS ONE OF THE ARMY AND ONE OF THE NAVY, TOLD THE MINISTER COUNSELOR JULY 31 THAT THE STATEMENT COVERED UP A GREAT DEAL OF TENSION WITHIN THE MILITARY. THEY SAID THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE MILITARY WISHED TO REVERSE THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS OR TO HAVE A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT THE MILITARY WAS CONCERNED THAT THERE BE MORE EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC ORDER AND THAT THE NATIONALITIES ISSUE NOT GET OUT OF HAND. THEY DID NOT HAVE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 08851 011725Z

ANY SPECIFIC RECIPES THEMSELVES IN THESE REGARDS. TODMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** JUNTA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MADRID08851  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780316-0094  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 MADRID 8388  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATEMENT BY JUNTA OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF ON TERRORIST ACTS  
**TAGS:** MILI, PINS, SP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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